

## **Cedar River Anadromous Fish Committee**

### **Summary Minutes**

**November 17, 2005**

**Meeting Time 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

#### **Meeting Location:**

**Metering Building, Second Floor Conference Room**

**SPU Operations Control Center**

**2700 Airport Way South**

**Seattle, WA**

**Members and Alternates Present:** Bruce Bachen (SPU), Phyllis Meyers (NMFS), Steve Foley (WDFW), Dennis Moore (MIT), Frank Urabeck (TU), Chuck Wischman (PSA), Hans Berge (KC), Bill Robinson (Public)

**Other Participants:** Chuck Johnson, Dave Seiler, Larry Fisher, Steve Schroder (WDFW), Eric Warner, Paul Haug (MIT), Brian Murray Anne Bikle (KC), Jean White, Cyndy Holtz, Julie Hall, and Paul Faulds (SPU)

**Public:** *None present*

#### **Call to order**

*Bruce Bachen called the meeting to order at 9:12 AM.*

#### **Approval of agenda**

*Members unanimously approved an revised agenda.*

#### **Meeting minutes review and approval from July 21, 2005**

*The AFC unanimously approved the meeting minutes.*

#### **Interim mitigation program for coho, Chinook and steelhead**

*Bruce noted that Brian Murray from King County was at the meeting to update members on WRIA 8 implementation and to discuss how the AFC and WIRA 8 could work together to improve habitat in the lower Cedar River. Brian M. provided members with a Power Point presentation on the status of Chinook populations in the basin, risks to the populations, the current habitat conditions in the Cedar River, and the process used to develop a conservation strategy.*

#### **Review results of individual assessments and confirm AFC priorities for 2006**

*Bruce stated the survey results from the AFC placed the question of how rapidly coho and Chinook might colonize the habitat above the Landsburg Dam as the highest priority, followed by what type of habitat rehabilitation measures would be most effective at encouraging Chinook to rear in the Cedar River. Bruce suggested the AFC also consider the priorities added by the Muckleshoot Tribe (MIT). MIT added: What are the actual losses or range of losses of juveniles*

*and adults in the saltwater drain system at the Ballard Locks and what is the potential for screening or other solutions? They also suggested that the O. mykiss study should be refocused on cutthroat interbreeding and interactions.*

*The final list for the RFP included five questions:*

- 1. How rapidly will coho and Chinook colonize the habitat above Landsburg Dam now that fish passage facilities allow these species to have access to this area?*
- 2. What type of habitat rehabilitation measures would be most effective at encouraging Chinook to rear in the Cedar River?*
- 3. What are the relative survival rates to adult for Chinook fry and smolt leaving the Cedar River?*
- 4. What additional information can be learned from PIT tagged fish that enter/leave the Cedar River?*
- 5. What are the actual losses or range of losses of juveniles and adults in the saltwater drain system at the Ballard Locks? What is the potential for screening or other solutions?*

### **Sockeye Monitoring and Research**

#### ***Adult otolith sampling and monitoring reproductive traits***

*Steve Schroder provided members with a Power Point presentation that covered traits to monitor on hatchery & naturally produced adult sockeye, thermal marking, adult sockeye sampling at the Locks in 2005, and the distribution of returning hatchery sockeye in the Cedar River.*

#### ***Fry marking program and release strategy***

*Bruce described to members the principles for the Cedar River sockeye marking program. He stressed any marking program should have releases that are similar to the natural pattern seen in the river.*

### **Information and discussion items**

#### ***Puget Sound Steelhead listing status***

*Phyllis noted that NOAA Fisheries opened the comment period on November 4<sup>th</sup> for listing Puget Sound steelhead and the public notice is on their website.*

#### ***Locks counts and Cedar River counts***

*Steve F. reported the final counts at the Locks were sockeye 87,000 and Chinook 7,300. Approximately 15% of the Chinook counted at the viewing window were not clipped. The peak sockeye live count in the river was 13,000 peak count. He noted that as late as November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10,000 were counted. He also noted that this year there was a high percentage of males in the live counts. The total Chinook redd count so far was about 320.*

#### ***Landsburg Fish Passage***

*Paul F. noted the Landsburg Fish Ladder went into sorting mode on September 6<sup>th</sup> and the first Chinook was passed upstream on September 18<sup>th</sup>. Chinook migration above Landsburg ended in late October. Coho were now moving steadily through the facility. He provided members with a handout that listed the preliminary counts through November 13<sup>th</sup>. A total of 69 Chinook were passed above Landsburg; 17 female, 52 were male, 40 not clipped and 29 clipped. So far, a total*

*of 56 coho were passed above Landsburg; 17 female and 39 male. He noted only 5 coho were clipped and they saw a fairly large number of precocious males (jacks).*

**Adjourn**

*The meeting adjourned at 1:15 PM*